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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
26 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Pueblo Sitrep No. 10
(As of 1730 EST)

2. North Korea is stepping up its propaganda exploitation of the Pueblo crew. Pyongyang Radio today broadcast the text of an alleged interview of Commander Bucher by the North Korean press. The reported statements of Commander Bucher were, for the most part, straight recitals of standard Communist propaganda.

3. The text of the interview attempted to create a connection between the Pueblo's capture and the Vietnam war. Commander Bucher allegedly stated that the Pueblo's intelligence mission against North Korea was in preparation for "a new war of aggression in Asia," and added that the US "regards Korea and Vietnam as two fronts" of the war.

4. Commander Bucher also referred to the "confessions made by the crew of my ship"--an indication that propaganda exploitation of other US personnel may now be forthcoming. In another reference to the Pueblo crew, the names of the two civilians on board were announced.

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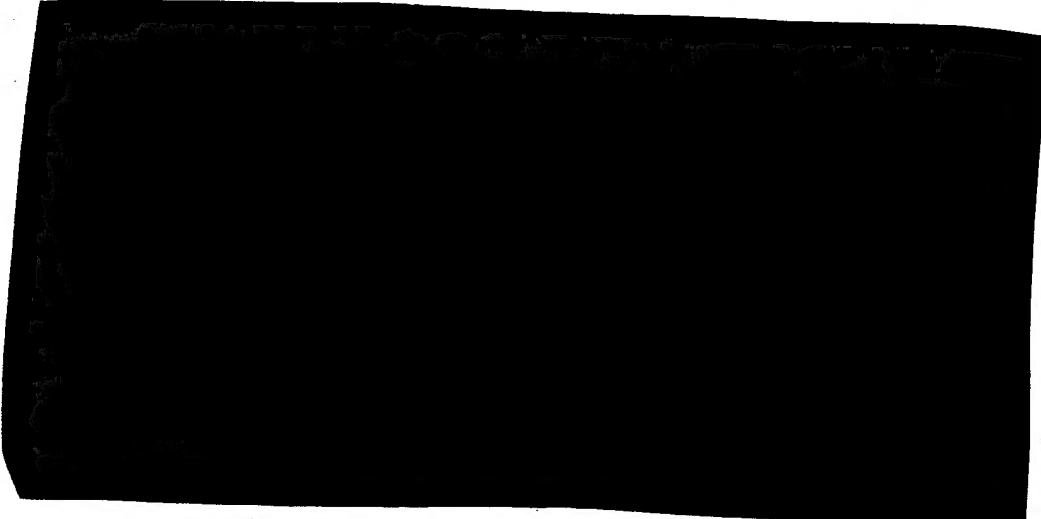
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5. In line with Pyongyang's earlier statement that US personnel would "be dealt with by law," Commander Bucher reportedly stated that he and his crew "should be punished in accordance with the criminal law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." Bucher's statements, however, ended with a plea for leniency and the expression of hope that the Pueblo crew would soon be released.

8.



Since the 21 January North Korean raid on Seoul, a number of firefights in the vicinity of the DMZ resulted in the death of two American soldiers and the wounding of 17. South Korean casualties for the same period stand at 17 killed and 29 wounded.